(14)

1907
6. Aug.

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

Tuesday.

My Billy

Your Sunday letter did not reach me till this morning. It seems at last to be getting warm & we have even been led by wild imagination to talk of the heat of last year as compared to that of the year '81. But generally it is the winter of the year '82. or whatever it is, that absorbs conversation. Today the doctors (R.S. which I am rather sorry for, as though

stupid he is nice & at
any rate talks of his cases
is more amusing than he
weather.

Clive had a letter from
Sydney. Turner at Bruges this
morning. He hopes that we
have thought of a name
for him, so I am going
to write to "my dear Saxon"
in a day or two. I see that
Saxon will soon become the
most natural name for him
He seems to be staying at the
most select & expensive hotel.

How are you Billy? Are
you being sensible or shall
I soon have to nurse you

through a nervous breakdown?
I am most flourishing. I
for the last 3 nights have
not been sick. so I hope
that is now coming to an
end which it ought to do
by now - It's a great mercy.
I have washed my hair
& am extremely funny. Would
you like to shake it?
Have you heard what
Gerge's plans are. They
say that if he were to
go to Rye he thinks we
could hardly go there too.
However I see no reason
for taking such an alarmist
view of the position. I suppose
they will go to Beatty or some
other seat. I in any case

I look forward to being at Curfew Cottage, Rye. this day three weeks.

My biography is not fit to read & has not got much forrader lately. It's simply a jumble at present of all the people & incedents I can remember up to the age of 14. Why don't you write yours? Have you finished your Life of Violet yet? If so do send it to me. & any other works I haven't seen. I wish you would Billy.

Love to the Sisters

Yours Jamie.

8 August 1907

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

Thursday.

My Billy.

I had some very wise cogitations from you yesterday which I enjoyed. Your view your way of looking upon my family-in-law is the right one - but when one lives with them it becomes precious difficult to feel entirely detached - However I didn't mean to seem depressed, though I do think the power of stupidity is the most depressing thing in the world. Didn't we find it so with Bessie,

however about we felt ourselves to be in him? Give us an idea what the level of conversation can get to here. At H. P. Gate after all George & Gerald were always in a minority, though even then they squashed everything - NYPL but here Clive & I simply subside into silence & let the tide roll over us - But I am really very happy, for I never see them except at meals & after dinner. & in little more than a fortnight now I shall be at Rye playing with the monkeys.

We can't come to you Jim afraid, because we can't leave

this before the 26th. If we could have we should have taken the house earlier, but as it is we must stay here till we go to it.

I wonder if we ever shall take a country house together. The chief difficulty is the servants. If you could dispose of yours for a month it would be all right, but I'm afraid Sophy is indispensable. But perhaps if we had a country house of our own, we could spend 3 months there in the summer, & in that case each lot of servants could have 6 weeks which would be quite enough for them. Think of those delicious long autumns at St Ives & walking out in the sunsets. I should like Cornwall but I suppose it would turn to impracticable for any but the summer months.

I wonder what Adrian would think of the idea. Oh Lord. what servants are! I hear this morning from Ellen that she won't stay if I have the slopper back. This seems to me quite understandable, but why the devil didn't she tell me so when I sent the slopper away instead of leaving it to the moment when I intend to send the slopper back. In consequence I am giving warning to the slopper which I hope may smooth matters. But I can't help a horrid suspicion that Ellen is really fighting with Lizzie & has some other subterranean reason for wishing to leave. In that case I shall have the devil of a time with a new parlour-maid. However I hope for the best. In this I feel going to stay with

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9 August 1907

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

Friday.

My Billy.

Your letter this morning was too pathetic, what between dentist & the derelict ruins of your hearth. I hope to possess you without getting to Rye - It would be too melancholy. I am longing to hear how you like your house & all about it. Are the sujeccies comfortable? It will be odd to come to Curlew Cottage which I have never seen. I suppose you will soon call upon

Henry James. Give him my
love & warn him of our
arrival - Old B. will be
scampering off to see him &
will be in her element with
Innisbead Bone - I have
begun to paint Lorna & as
I have only had me sitting
yet I am still happy &
enjoying myself. It's really
rather a mercy to get her
to sit - as she has nothing
to do & will sit & read
(Paradise Lost -!) quite
happily.

I have a grand plan
in my head for getting
rid of all our servants

NYPL

It is vague & distant & I don't know if it will ever come off. But I have hopes & am working out all the details in my own mind. Then - we could always share a summer house with you - we should be free to & come as we liked & life would be very simple. However I dare not count upon it - but the more I think of it the more it seems to me absurd that we should have, as we soon shall, 5 servants to look after a young & able bodied couple & a baby - Do you

think Adrian will object to me sharing a summer house with you when I have a baby? Will he find it too much of a nuisance? But - after all he need hardly see it. I should like to hear all your expectations on the subject of my children. Have you settled all their names & characters? Just that there will be many of them. I am inclined to 2 - 4 at most. If I have owned 2 daughters & a son suit you? Julian, Judith & Cynthia - Judith would be rather like me & Cynthia like you but with a sweeter temper & not so much brains! But all should be very intelligent & charming. They would all adore their Aunt Jane of course - & even Maria.

12 Aug 1907

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

Sunday.

My Billy.

I had no letter from you yesterday or this morning but I hope to hear by the second post. I enclose with you yesterday cuttings as the only post out on Sundays was at the uncertain hour of 10 in the morning. We spent the usual Sunday with its atmosphere of cleanly & Sunday dinner. But Clive & I had lots of tea with some people in

the village who were very
drunk & thought it their
duty to talk to me about
painting. Today we had
arranged to go & see the
Raven Hills, but as it is
pouring I doubt if we
shall get there.

The doctor who came
down from London with
Dorothy & who had been
at Bala for the last week
came back for the day yes-
terday & thought her decidedly
better - so I suppose she
is going on all right although

she still has a high temperature every afternoon. In a fortnight- today I shall come to Rye - which is joyful to think of - What a mercy it will be to begin left- family life & be alone again - I am wearing my red cloak- It hasn't got fur yet Billy. but I think of putting a broad band of black velvet all the way round the edge instead which will look almost as appropriate. I suppose Ld Beatrice has left you by now unless you press her very hard to stay

in which case she will
probably be with you when
we come - I wonder
how you manage to read
such dull letters. but what
can you expect? If I
stayed here much longer
I should talk à la Lorna
always with ease. I even
in time I should probably
take to garden parties &
lawn tennis. Give my
love to Adrian. I wish
he'd write to me some day.

Yours Marian.

What happened about Pierpont?

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

Tuesday.

My Billy.

My husband has written to you so you really don't deserve a letter from me too. However you shall have that privilege. as you wrote me a very nice one yesterday. Besides I must tell you that the dolphin never kicked you off - a shudder in her life. You needent give me facts to stop on - I like ruminations just as well.

I am sorry Adrian's early rising seemed to have prejudiced him

against the country house idea. The permanent country house, however, is so far in the future that it doesn't much matter for you may have married by that time & if your husband is nice, you & he can share it with us - or anything may have happened - But as far as a country house for the summer goes, I thought that Adrian himself suggested our sharing one this year. So most likely we may look on that kindly again next year. It would certainly be very economical, & it

does seem absurd that we should pay £10 p.s. a week in rent between us when we might pay £5. However there's time to consider it & it depends too on my being able to carry out my plan of getting rid of all our servants. as to which I have great hopes.

We went to tea with the Raven Hills yesterday & it cleared up. I like her & it is a relief occasionally to see people who do understand what you say & have some feeling for other things besides the crops.

How did you like Walter Lamb's compliment? Did

it suit your fastidious taste
or are you in a mood to
think Miss Noel the better
judge? What will your
ladies say next. Billy?
I shall start the idea that
you really have a completely
logical mind - so logical
that people can only think
it fantastic. I expect that's
the truth. NYPL I had a letter
from Scrope this morning - so
we are not quite dropped
yet. He's at Pixton for the
summer & wants news of us
which he shall have in due
time. I have also had
a letter from my affectionate
Saxon! He is now established
as Saxon - shall I ever keep
it up with the coming gravity.
Girls leave to the likewise
Love to the Superiors. Are they comfortable
Your loving